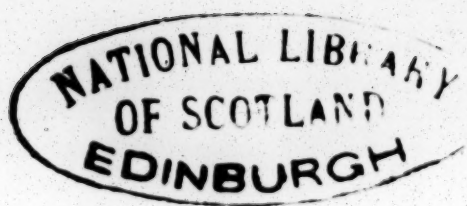


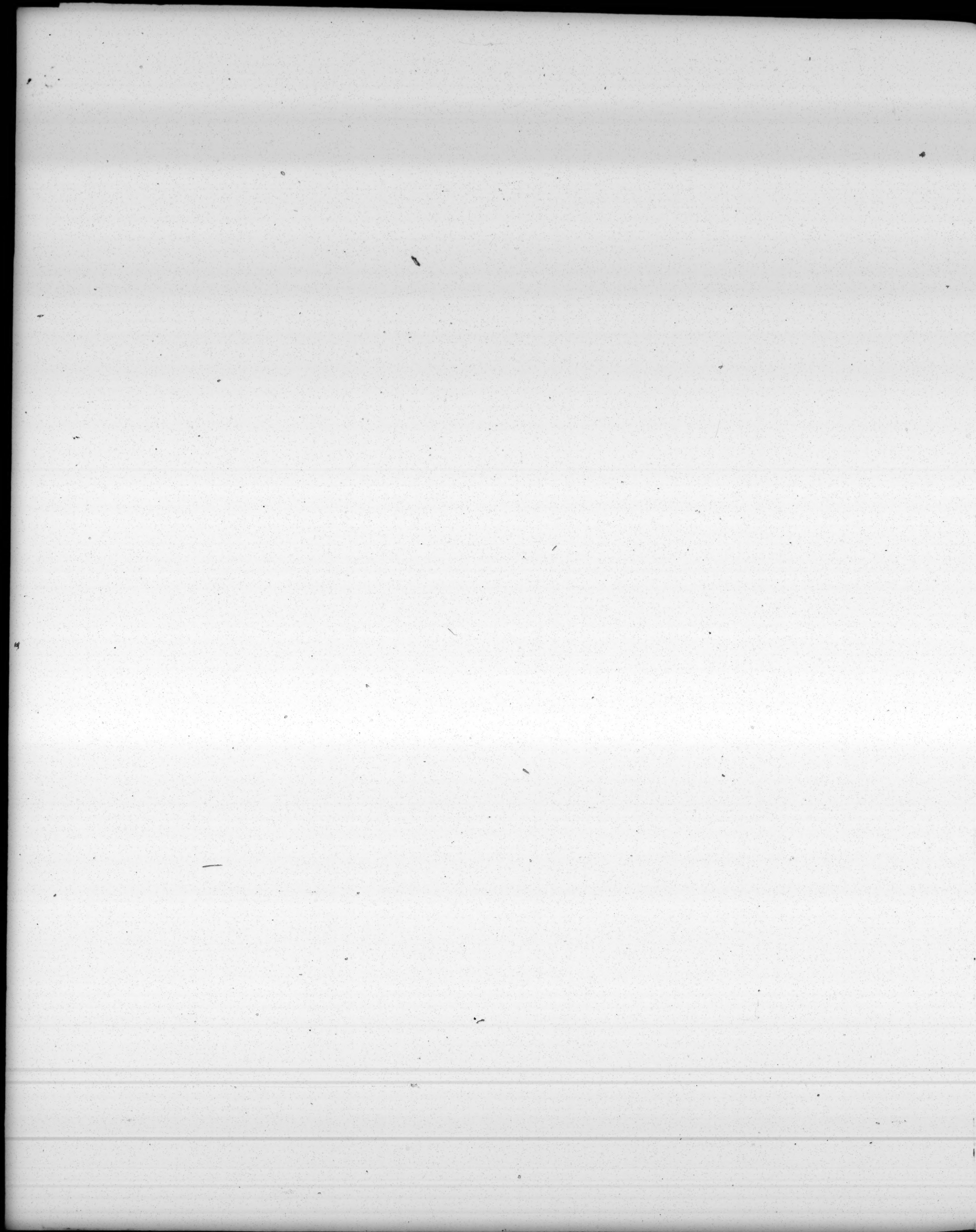
504 **Scotland.**—DUMFRIES.—WONDERFUL and STRANGE NEWS from SCOTLAND: being a True relation of a Person lately deceased at the Town of DUMFREEZ, whose Corps could by no Art of Man or Strength of Cattle be removed from the place where it Lay, and when the House was Burnt down to the ground, the Body, Coffin, and Table, remained Whole and Untoucht, sm. 4to. (8 pp.), *half bound*, 1673 £2 10s

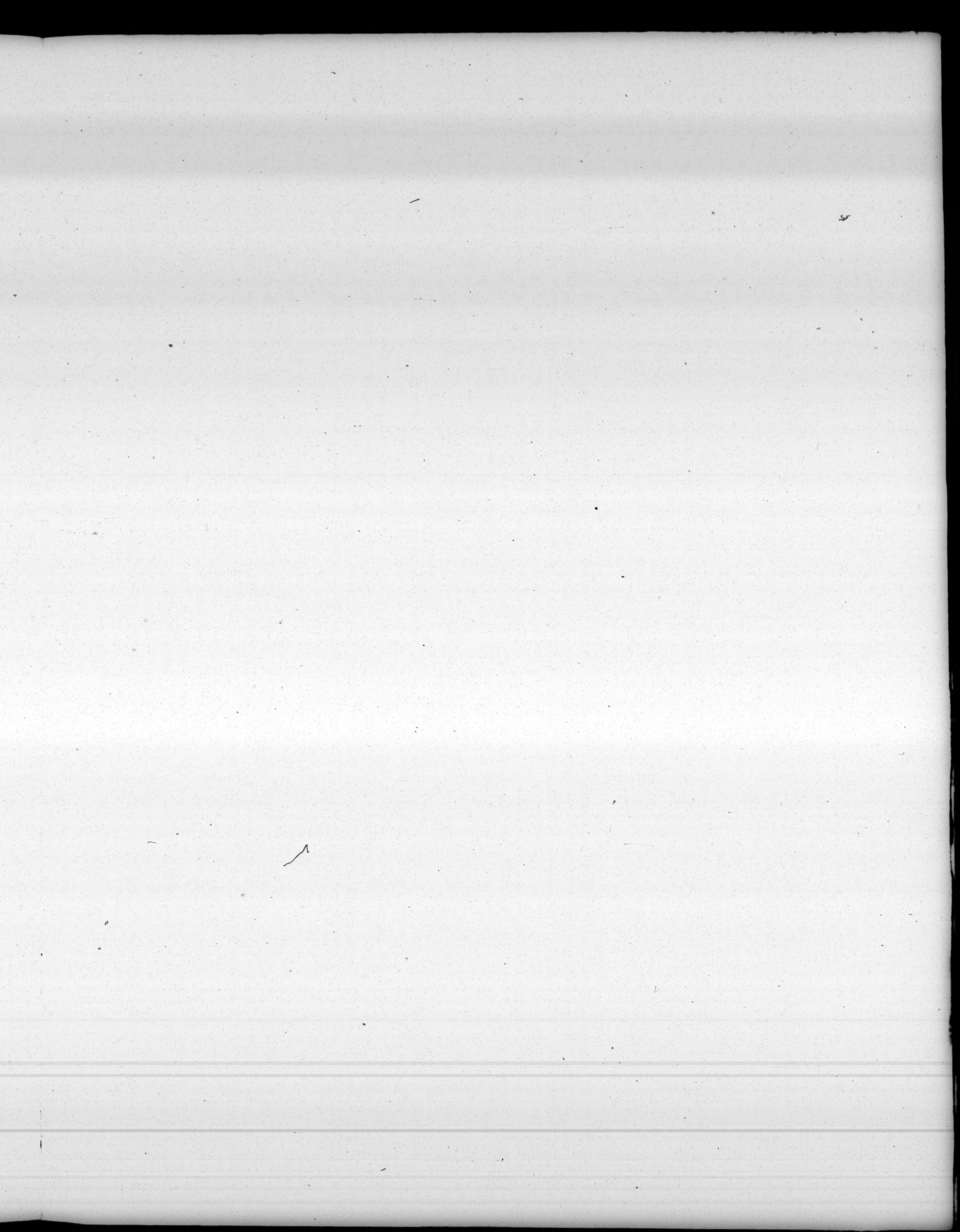


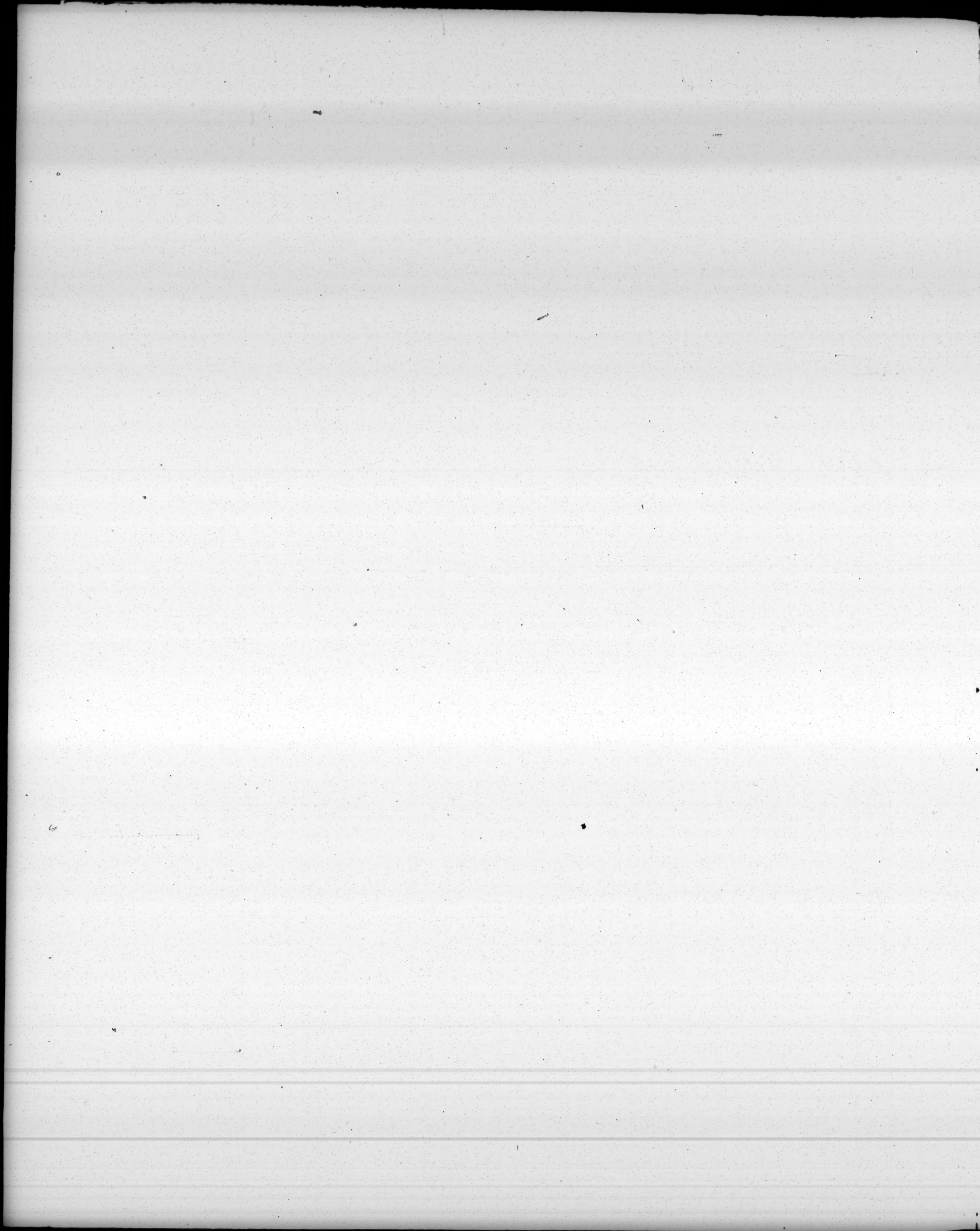
William Robert Reid

L.C. 1729.









Wonderful and Strange
N E W S

FROM

Scotland,

BEING

A true and full Relation of a Person

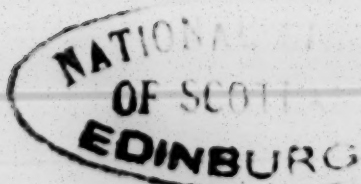
lately Deceased at the Town of *Dumfreez*, whose Corps could by no *Art* of Man, or Strength of Cattle, be Removed from the Place where it Lay.

And when the House wherein it was, was wholly *Burnt* down to the Ground, the Body, Coffin, and Table whereon it stood, remained Whole and *Untoucht*, and so *Continues* to the great Astonishment of all Spectators.

Faithfully Communicated by a Person of *Quality*, in a Letter from the said Town of *Dumfreez*. Dated *Septemb. 28. 1673.*

*Great and Wonderful are the Works and Judgments of Jehovah;
And who can find them out?*

London, Printed for *B. H.* Anno Dom. 1673.



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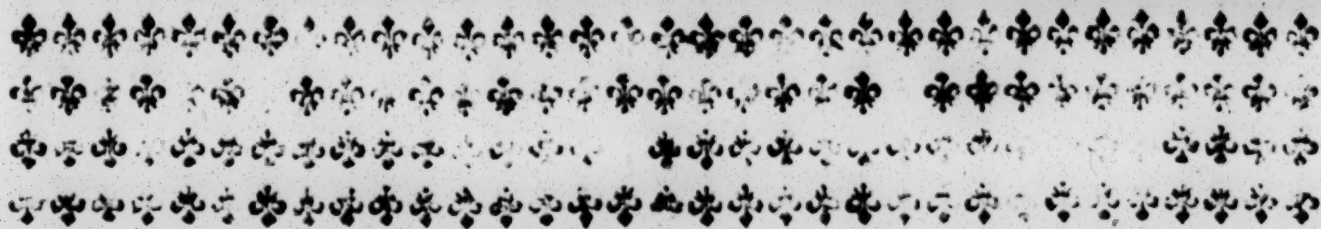
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Wonderful and Unparralleld News from Scotland.

WHether thoſe ſtupendious Operations of Omnipotency, which diſtinguiſhed Humanity admires by the Name of Miracles, and Infinite Wiſdom made uſe of for Confirming and Propagating Evangelical Truths in the Inancy of the Church, be yet totally Ceased, is a Diſpute too Abſtruſe and Curious to be Diſcuſſed (much leſs Determined) by our ſcattered Pen: Yet this we muſt declare, that the enſuing Narrative carries with it ſo much of Rarity and Wonder, that had we not been well Satisfied in the worth and Credit of the Relaters we could not have preſumed to Expoſe it thus publicly to the World without much Caution and a large Apo'logie.

But being amply Convinced of the Truth of the thing as to matter of Fact, we conceive it a Duty rather than Crime, to Diſſeal a Register ſo Eminent and Signal an Accident (or rather Dispensation of Providence) to the View of the preſent Age and notice of Poſterity: Not that we are Ignorant how Obnoxious generally (and ſometimes for good Reason) ſuch Relations are to ſuſpicion and Censure, and how ready thoſe that Pri'e themſelves in being counted mighty Wits, as they make a Mock of Sin, are to turn the moſt dreadful Judgments into Scoff and Droilery; from ſuch we may expect a Thouſand Interrogatives. As wherefore? To what end? By what means? And how? could ſuch a ſtrange thing as this come to paſs, or.

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But our Answer is as ready, that, Had we designed to abuse the World with a Fiction, an ordinary Invention might so Artificially have composed a Story, as might have been Plausible enough to Answer all the Nice Scurtinies of their wanton Imaginations : But that's a Liberty we dare not take, and only shall Nakedly set forth the Truth of the thing as it happened, and leave each Reader to make his own Gloss or Comment on it afterwards as he pleases.

IN the Town of *Dumfries* (Situate in *Galloway*, on the South of *Scotland*, near the Marshes or Borders) there lately Dwelt an Antient man, of an ordinary Fortune, who in the second week of this last *September*, happened to fall very Sick, his Distemper seemed to be only a violent Fever; nor was there any thing Extraordinary in it, but this: That as he was Seized with it, he declared to his Wife and Neighbours, that he should certainly Die of that Sicknes, which continually prevailing against Languishing Nature, soon perswaded them also to be of the same Opinion. But the very day before he departed this Life, he charged his wife to get him Buried within Three Hours after he should be Dead. This his sorrowful wife little Regarded, thinking them only to be Extravagant words that proceeded from the Distemperature of his Brain: which he observing, Repeated the same Injunction several times, both to her, and diverse others of his Friends; very solemnly adding, that unless they did so Bury him in that short space, they should never be able afterwards to bear away, or remove his Body. They askt him often, what he meant? And why he should say so? But could procure no Answer from him, but this, with many deep sighs, *It would be so.*

The Malignity of the Disease was now arrived to the height, that Nature overpoured, could no longer resist, so that, on the 28th. of the said Month of *September* last this poor Creature was forced to quit the Stage of this Transitory Life; Dying in a calm and ordinary Temper, without declaring much his hopes, or betraying any symptoms of despair.

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His enfranchised Soul had no sooner quitted the Prison of his Body and was waisted to Eternity, but his Friends remembering his Charge of being speedily Buried, resolve to make a Truce with their Grievs, and not sit still stupified with an unprofitable Sorrow, but rather execute as fast as they can his dying Commands in that particular: To this purpose a Coffin is immediately sent for, and the Corps as soon as laid forth put into it, being placed on a Table in a Ground round, Neighbours are invited, and all preparation made to inter him that very Night; but the three hours were Elapst, It being almost impossible to provide all things in so small a time. At last the Company being met with Charitable intentions to bear and Accompany the body to it's long home, in the place Sacrated & set apart for that purpose, which was above half a Mile distant, when they went to take up the Coffin, Behold! It would not stir, four or five men confessed themselves too weak, and then the whole Company add their helping hands but to no purpose, the Coffin seems fixed to the Table to grow out of the Ground, rather than stand there, so that neither one nor the other could by all their strength be removed, or stirred in the least.

This accident astonishes all the Company, who having wearied themselves to no purpose, repair at night to their respective Habitations fill'd with Admiration, and leaving the disconsolate Widdow and her poor Children, in the House equally orewhelm'd with Grief, and affrighted with this new kind of Prodigy.

Next day New Counsells were taken about carrying away this Corps, Since the Coffin could not be stirred, nor the Table moved by strength of Man, they resolve at last to try what may be done with that of Cattel; and to come at it conveniently are forced to pull down a wall and one side of the House, which being done, they fasten several Teams both of Oxen and Horses to the Coffin sometimes, and sometimes to the Table: But both remain still as fixed and immoveable as a Rock, and which was remarkable though the strength of the Cattle broke, most of their Tackling, yet neither the Coffin nor the Table, received the least prejudice.

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They then essayed to open the Coffin and take out the Body, but that neither could be done ; so that at length despairing of any success, they give over attempting any thing further, but advise the poor Woman and her Children, to get out of the House, and so leave it standing ; which they did accordingly, and carried all their moveable Goods to another House in the Town.

Thus the Corps stood in the forsaken Tenement for two or three days, and had as many wondering Pilgrims to visit it, out of Curiosity, as Superstition in Foreign parts carries to the Tomb of some Celebrated Man.

At last the Land Lord of the House who dwelt some Miles distant, hearing great Report of this Prodigy, came to see it ; and finding all things as we have related, because his House by this means was rendered Incapable of being Tenanted (for who would willingly dwell in a Charnel House) and that it was before old and ruinous, resolves wholly to demolish it, and build a new one in the place, and that he might be rid of this unparalleled Tomb, concludes to set the House on Fire, not doubting but thereby the Coffin, Table, and Corps would together with the rest be soon reduced to Ashes ; but he promised himself too much, for when they had set the House all on Flames, and the same was wholly Burnt down to the Ground. The Coffin and Table stood as before, whole firm and untouched.

Seeing all ways fail, some Friends of the deceased, after the House was Burnt took the pains to cast up Earth about Table, and at last have cover'd the Coffin with that Bank which yet can never hide the strangeness of the thing, but that it will remain a wonder and a Riddle to future Generations. And such we leave it, without any impertinent disquisition after the Cause of so Admirable Phenomenon, or Saucy prying into the Eternal Dooms-day Book of Providence ; which sometimes for Reasons only known to its infinite Wisdom suffers wonderful things to come to pass, and often (as in the well known Case of Lot's Wife turned into a lasting Pillar of Salt) sets up amazing Monuments of Divine Justice for Sin, to warn
and

and deter others from such Crimes. Let not the Reader busie himself so much in guessing what notorious offence could cause the Infliction of so strange a punishment, or branding the Deceased Party with harsh and unwarrantable (because uncharitable) Censures, as to forget his own Duty, which is to become more Holy and more Humble, by such dreadful Examples. And so to *work out his Salvation with Fear and Trembling*, That when himself shall be Summoned by Death, however Providence shall dispose of his Body, his Soul may be received into the Mansions of Bliss and Glory.

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If the Reader doubts of the Truth of this Matter, He may
Repair to these Persons following.

Mr. *Edward Crouch*, Living in *Cow-Lane*.

Mr. *Humphry Eeds*, Living in *Princes-street*.

Mr. *Stephen Harwood*, Living on the backside of the *Ex-
change*.

Mr. *Edward Barker*, Living in *Dunnings-Alley*, without
Bishops-Gate.

Mr. *John Ames*, Living at *Tobie's Coffee-house*, near *Pie-
Corner*.

